

THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Sub A3  
1. A pre-formed insulation module having a body shaped to a component to be insulated including:

an unstriated insulation layer shaped to the body comprising a rigid fibrous insulating material having fibres sealed having no specific orientation relative to the module within said layers by a sealing agent and being substantially uniform in composition and density over a cross section of said layer which has an inner surface adjacent to a surface of a component to be insulated; an outer surface and contacting surfaces;

a substantially non-fibrous, resilient cladding layer shaped to the body and directly adhered to the insulation layer at the outer surface thereof; and

connection means disposed along the length of the body for hingelessly connecting with at least one further adjacent insulation module wherein said insulation and cladding layers of said module are disposed relative to each other such that, on connection to said further insulation module, insulation layers of said module and said at least one further module are brought into contact along said contacting surfaces of the insulation layers of the modules for insulating at least a portion of the component.

2. The insulation module of claim 1 wherein said module is a part-cylindrical module with cladding layer overlapping said insulation layer along the length of the module on both sides of a longitudinal axis thereof such as to overlap with a cladding layer of said further module for at least partial connection therewith; and said module is provided along its length with circumferential beads for location of a longitudinally disposed adjacent module.

Sub A3  
3. A method for manufacturing an insulation module having a body shaped to a component to be insulated including:

an unstriated insulation layer shaped to the body comprising a rigid fibrous insulating material having fibres sealed, having no particular orientation relative to the module, within the layer by a sealing agent and being substantially uniform in composition and density over a cross section of said layer which has an inner surface adjacent to a surface of a component to be insulated; an outer surface; and contacting surfaces;

a substantially non-fibrous resilient cladding layer shaped to the body and directly adhered to the insulation layer at the outer surface thereof; and

connection means disposed along the length of the body for connecting with at least one further adjacent insulation module wherein said insulation and cladding layers of said module are disposed relative to each other such that, on connection to said further adjacent insulation module, insulation layers of said module and said at least one further module are brought into contact along said contacting surfaces of the insulation layers of the modules for insulating a portion of the component and which includes the step of taking a pre-form of a fibrous insulating material, cutting it to shape and applying to that pre-form, prior to cladding, a sealing agent for encapsulating fibres of said fibrous insulating material for preventing unacceptable release of fibres into the insulation environment during normal use.

4. The method of claim 3 further including adhering a metallic cladding layer free of fibres to the insulating layer following the sealing operation.

5. The method of claim 3 or 4 wherein said sealing agent is an acrylic emulsion.

6. The method of any one of claims 3 to 5 wherein said pre-form is at least part-cylindrical in shape.

7. A method of insulating a component comprising securing to that component a pre-formed insulation module having a body shaped to a component to be insulated including:

an unstriated insulation layer shaped to the body comprising a rigid fibrous insulating material having fibres sealed having no specific orientation relative to the module within said layer by a sealing agent and being substantially uniform in composition and density over a cross section of said layer which has an inner surface adjacent to a surface of a component to be insulated; an outer surface and contacting surfaces;

a substantially non-fibrous, resilient cladding layer shaped to the body and directly adhered to the insulation layer at the outer surface thereof; and

connection means disposed along the length of the body for hingelessly connecting with at least one further adjacent insulation module wherein said insulation and cladding layers of said module are disposed relative to each other such that , on connection to said further insulation module, insulation layers of said module and said at least one further module are brought into contact along said contacting surfaces of the insulation layers of the modules for insulating at least a portion of the component; and connecting said module to at least one further adjacent module of like construction by co-operation of their respective connection means for insulating a portion of a component.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein said component is a pipe and said module is a part-cylindrical module with cladding layer overlapping said insulation layer along the length of the module on both sides of a longitudinal axis thereof such as to overlap with a cladding layer of said further module for at least partial connection therewith; and said module is provided along its length with circumferential beads for location of a longitudinally disposed adjacent module.

9. The method of claim 7 or 8 wherein said modules are interference fitted together.

10. The method of any one of claims 7 to 9 in which said inner surfaces of said module directly contact the insulated portion of said component.

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